



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Mifflin County, PA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the County of Mifflin for a Brownfields Pilot. Mifflin County (population 46,453) is a rural county in south-central Pennsylvania that has played a central role in the region's transportation and manufacturing history, with large iron-ore mining, iron fabrication, and cloth- and shirt-making industries. Today, Mifflin County has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, a result of manufacturing plant closings and subsequent economic downturn in the wake of large-scale flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes. In 1970, manufacturing made up 42 percent of the county's employment base; by 1997 it represented 37 percent, a loss of 2,000 jobs. Many of these once-active businesses have left the area, leaving behind abandoned and dilapidated buildings with potential contamination.

### OBJECTIVES

The county's objective is to develop a comprehensive strategy to promote environmental and economic sustainability that integrates the Pilot project with the county-wide comprehensive planning process. This strategy will rely on extensive community involvement. The Pilot will take a two-track approach to foster brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. First, the

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Mifflin County, Pennsylvania

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets four to six properties within Mifflin County, an economically-depressed rural area in south-central Pennsylvania.

#### Contacts:

County of Mifflin  
(717) 248-0887

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 3  
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Pilot will target the Corkins property, a former automotive shop located at an entrance to the downtown area, for assessment and cleanup planning. Simultaneously, the Pilot will identify and prioritize other brownfields in conjunction with the county's comprehensive planning process.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I and II assessments at four to six targeted sites;
- Preparing cleanup and redevelopment plans for the targeted sites;
- Conducting site-specific and county-wide community outreach activities, including forums, interviews, a newsletter, and press releases; and
- Identifying and prioritizing other potential brownfields sites through research and community input.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.